

Thursday's markets were not more than moderately active, and a sluggishness was apparent in wheat circles, with an anxiety to unload in long futures. Corn was weak and declined slightly, while oats showed some strength at the opening. A fruitless effort was made to hold up pork, but a decline took place, and a weak closing ensued. The following are closing quotations.

Wheat December, 92½c,	January, 93½c
Corn, " 50½c,	" 49½c
Oats, " 39½c,	" 35½c
Pork, " 15.95,	" 17.10
Lard, " 10.30,	" 10.32½

Friday's market was a strong one all round. Wheat and corn advanced slightly, and oats held moderately firm in spite of liberal receipts. Both pork and lard advanced slightly, and closed firm.

Wheat, December, 94½c,	January, 94½c.
Corn, " 50½c,	" 50½c.
Oats, " 40½c,	" 36½c.
Pork, " \$17.15,	" \$17.20c.
Lard, " \$10.27½,	" \$10.32½c.

The following are quotations based on Saturday's sales:

Wheat, December 94c,	January, 94c.
Corn, " 50½	" 50½c.
Oats, " 40	" 36c.
Pork, " \$17.20,	" \$17.20
Lard, " \$10.22,	" \$10.27½.

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The Christmas rest seemed to have a livening effect upon stocks generally, and operators opened the past week's business evidently with more hopeful feelings. On Tuesday stocks were higher all round, and a heavy business was done on change. The whole tone of the market was encouraging, although the advances made generally were not great. Sales of Montreal were made at 195; highest quotations of Ontario were 111½; Commerce stiffened up and advanced to 131½; Dominion sold at 195; and Standard at 113½; Toronto closed at 170½, with sales during the day at 171; Federal was offered at 151, and Merchants at 120; Imperial sold at 136, North-west Land Co. at 45½. During the following day there was a slight easing off in Montreal and Ontario, while Merchants showed a tendency to advance, as did Standard also. Commerce, Imperial and Standard were unchanged, Hamilton was wanted at 111, and North-west Land Co. sold down to 45. Altogether the stock markets of the week were an improvement upon those of the previous one, and the firm feeling held up until the close of the week.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

The grain markets of the past week have been rather quiet, as has been those of produce generally. This, however, may be attributed to the holiday season, and not to any weakness, as prices generally held firm throughout. The business on change was very limited, although the receipts on the streets were not so limited as might have been expected. Tuesday and Wednesday were both loaded with a holiday feeling, and trading of every description was slow indeed. Wheat sold No. 2 fall at 91c, and No. 3 at 88c; No. 1 Spring was scarce and quoted at 93c to 94c; No. 2 sold at 92c, and No. 3 at 90c. Oats were sold on Tuesday at 39c, but they firmed up considerably, and on Wednesday 41c was asked. Barley did not find ready sale, but prices were moderately firm; No. 1 sold at 74c; No. 2 was quoted at 68c; extra No. 3 at 58c, and No. 3 at 48c. Peas were slow and quoted at 73c. Potatoes declined to 65c. Flour sold: Superior extra \$4.20 to \$4.25; Extra \$4.15. Butter was in good demand for shipping purposes; Choice Dairy sold at 15c to 21c; boxed rolls at 18c to 20c, and medium grades 15c to 17c. Eggs had become

a little more plentiful, and were quoted in round lots at 25c. Bacon was slow, and quoted: Long Clear 11c; Cumberland 10c; Rolls 12c to 12½c. Hams were quoted 13c to 13½c for smoked. Pork was very little in demand and quoted at \$22.

Markets by Telegraph.

Special Dispatch to The Commercial.

TORONTO, Dec. 30th.—Produce generally has been quiet since the holidays, but the week has closed with prices steady. Flour sold to-day: Superior Extra \$4.25; Extra \$4.17½ for choice; Spring Extra \$4.25. Oatmeal was easier and quoted at \$4.70 to \$4.85. Wheat was quite firm: No. 2 Fall sold 92c; No. 3 89c; No. 2 Spring 93c; No. 3 90c. These prices were asked and refused at the close: Oats were quiet and quoted 39c to 40c; Barley was quiet but steady; Extra No. 3 was quoted at 58c; Northern No. 3 sold at 51c, and Ordinary No. 3 at 49c. Peas were inactive but firm, and were quoted at 73c. Rye was offered at 60c with 59c bid. Butter was abundant: Choice Dairy was worth 19c to 21c; Box rolls 18c to 20c, and inferior grades were nominal. Eggs and meats firm and unchanged. Hogs offered less freely and firm at \$8.00.

TORONTO STOCKS.

Special Dispatch to The Commercial.

TORONTO, Dec. 30.—There has been a great increase of confidence in stocks all round during the past two days, although there is still great uncertainty about the future. Closing bids to-day were: Montreal 201½, sales at 202½ and 201½; Ontario 110½, sales at 111½ and 111; Toronto 173½; Commerce 132½, sales 132 to 133; Imperial 135½, sales 136½; Federal 152½, sales 152½ and 152½; Dominion 196, sales 195½; Standard 113½, sales 714; Hamilton 113; North-west Land Co. 45, sales at 45½.

The Manitoba.

Under this heading the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* publishes an article which agrees bally with the rumored scarcity of funds for C.P.R. construction. We copy a portion of the article:

"The *Pioneer Press* has already expressed its confident conviction that there was no truth or foundation for the batch of sensational rumors telegraphed to it from Ottawa, or for the gossip of similar purport current in some railroad circles in St. Paul regarding the affairs and relations of the Canadian Pacific, the Manitoba and the Northern Pacific. These rumors were to the effect that the Canadian Pacific syndicate having been unable to negotiate the loans needed for construction purposes in England, were so hard-pressed for money that those members of it who were large shareholders in the Manitoba were compelled to sell out their stock, which was bought up by Villard, who has thus obtained a controlling interest in the Manitoba, or so large an interest that he was enabled to dictate the terms of the treaty made with President Hill last fall; that Mr. Hill had resigned his directorship in the Canadian Pacific, sold out his stock in that road, and that the two corporations were assuming a hostile attitude. The *Pioneer Press* was certainly confident that there could be no truth in these rumors, because they were entirely inconsistent with all the known facts of the case. The story that the Canadian Pacific syndicate are hard-pressed for money to build their road would seem to have small title to credibility; for instance, in view of the fact that it has as yet issued no bonds,

except upon its enormous land grant, and these bonds have found a ready sale in the English market, and that its loans have been and are to be raised chiefly upon its stock, which is easily marketable, and that not a bond has yet been issued upon its road, which has cost \$60,000,000. A corporation with such resources at its command is not likely to be reduced to such straits that its members are likely to dispose of their investments in the Manitoba, one of the best paying roads in America, simply to furnish funds for construction purposes.

The St. John N.B., *News* of the 27th December records the fortunate averting of what would have been a terrific railway accident near to Fredricton Junction. A defect in a bridge across the Oromocto was discovered by a section man shortly before an express train was due, and the stopping of a train prevented all being hurled into a gully, as the bridge was so much damaged that the train must have crashed through it.—In an editorial headed "Creameries and Tree Planting," the same journal lauds the creamery system of Ontario, and calls upon the New Brunswick Legislature to take action tended to improve butter making in that province.

LAKE SUPERIOR navigation during the winter must be a tough undertaking, if we are to judge from the following item taken from the Prince Arthur Landing *Herald* of Dec. 27th:—"The tug *Siskiwit* arrived here on Christmas night at about ten o'clock, having in tow the barge *Sam Field*, having on board about \$10,000 worth of beef, pork and poultry for Smith & Mitchell, pork for G. O. Clavet, and a quantity of hay brought by the owners of the tug. The barge, however, was almost entirely under water, a hole having been cut in her bows by the ice near Pie Island. The whole of the deck load was lost. She was hauled into the slip and the meat is being taken from her hold. The tug will return with her to Duluth, after she is unloaded and repaired.

AMONG the demands made by some people in the City of Quebec from the managers of the Grand Trunk Railway, is that they give an outlet at Hochelaga, so as to give a direct through connection between that city and Chicago. Also, that the G.T.R. build a huge elevator on the Tidal Basin wharf, and the merchants of the city will form a warehousing company. The requests are not great, but Quebec is at the mercy of the Grand Trunk Railway, and the managers of the line will not spend a cent for the benefit of that or any other city, unless they are compelled to.

RECENTLY, a St. John, N.B. Court has had its attention taken up with a case involving the ownership of a valuable patent. One Hamilton, plaintiff, sues Miller for the ownership and profits on the patent flanger, alleging that he is the inventor and that he employed Miller to secure a patent for him, and Miller secured the patent in his own name. Miller denies this, and swears that the whole case is a conspiracy to defraud him out of his right. It is difficult to see how the Court can get behind the patent granted to Miller, unless the evidence is so clear as to make a criminal case of fraud, breach of trust, or some such crime against him.